



Animas-La Plata Project

Volume 3

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

February 2000

Ways to Comment on the DSEIS

- Attend one of the public hearings and submit oral and/or written comments during the hearing.
- Mail your written comments to:
Mr. Pat Schumacher
Four Corners Division Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
835 East 2nd Street,
Suite 300
Durango, CO
81301-5475
- Submit your comments electronically to the following email address:
ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov
(This email address is ONLY for comments on the DSEIS.)

To be most helpful, comments on the DSEIS should be as specific as possible. **All comments must be received by close of business on March 17, 2000.**

Draft Supplemental EIS Released

On January 14, 2000, the Department of the Interior (Interior), through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes (Colorado Ute Tribes), released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Animas-La Plata Project (ALP Project). The DSEIS evaluates the potential impacts of implementing the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-585) through construction of the ALP Project in order to provide the Colorado Ute Tribes an assured long-term water supply to satisfy their senior water rights claims. The DSEIS is intended to supplement the environmental documents prepared by Reclamation in 1980 and 1996 for the ALP Project, as well as provide an environmental

evaluation to Interior and other involved parties in reaching a final settlement of the water rights claims of the Colorado Ute Tribes.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2000, and copies of the DSEIS were mailed to more than 200 elected representatives, federal, state and local agencies, Native American groups, organizations and local libraries. In addition a "stand-alone" summary of the ALP Project DSEIS was mailed to over 800 individuals, agencies, and organizations on the ALP mailing list. Anyone interested in receiving the complete DSEIS, consisting of Volumes 1 and 2, should refer to the "Who to Contact" box in this newsletter. The full text of the DSEIS is also available on the Internet at <http://www.uc.usbr.gov> under the Environmental Studies, Summaries & Reports link.

How You Can Participate in the DSEIS Review Process

The DSEIS is subject to a 60-day public review process. The review period began on January 14, 2000 and will end on March 17, 2000. During this time, Reclamation will solicit input from the public in several different ways. Interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are encouraged to attend and participate in public hearings which will be held during the month of February (see box for dates, times and locations). Following the close of the public review period, Reclamation will evaluate all comments received and make any appropriate changes to the document based on those comments before preparing a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for release in May 2000.

ALP Project DSEIS Public Hearings Schedule

- Durango, Colorado — February 15, 2000
7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Double Tree Hotel, Main Ballroom,
501 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado
- Farmington, New Mexico — February 16, 2000
7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Farmington Civic Center,
Exhibition Hall #1, 200 West Arrington,
Farmington, New Mexico
- Denver, Colorado — February 17, 2000
7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Denver Convention Center,
Room A-209, 700 14th Street, Denver, Colorado

Reclamation will make every effort to make these hearings accessible to disabled attendees. Please call (970) 385-6500 with any special needs or requests at least three days prior to the hearing.